



INSIDE THE INSTITUTE



✧ The Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center

✧ Decorative Motifs of the Oriental Institute

✧ TRAVEL PROGRAM:

Egypt & the East

Bactrian Gold at the Golden Gate

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NEWS & NOTES

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Cover photo: The Oriental Institute as seen from the northwest,
1932. Archival Photofiles, apf2-05459, Special Collections
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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S STUDY

One of the most striking things about the Oriental Institute is the beautiful concordance between the actual building and its function as a center for the study of the ancient Near East. The powerful imagery of the civilizations of Egypt, Mesopotamia, ancient Israel, Iran, and Anatolia are literally embedded throughout the interior and exterior of the Institute, constantly reminding us of our mission and inspiring us in that quest. It is always an unexpected pleasure to find some small architectural element or relief panel that one had never noticed before, hiding beneath the ivy, in a corner of the elevator, or painted on the gallery ceiling. The fact that these motifs are true to their ancient prototypes adds to their beauty and symbolic power. Emily Teeter's article in this issue of *News & Notes* gives a wonderful introduction to these small (and not-so-small) architectural treasures. I hope you will use it as a mini-guide the next time you are showing visitors around the Institute.

And yet, for all our rich traditions, the Oriental Institute is constantly evolving as we develop new programs and facilities for our researchers, our Museum, and our programs of outreach and education. In this regard, we at the Oriental Institute are especially proud of the new Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center, which is opening this fall in the LaSalle Banks room. Constructed through the generous support of David and Barbara Kipper, with additional support by Oriental Institute Visiting Committee member Lois Schwartz and others, the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center provides middle and secondary school students with hands-on experience in digging at a simulated Near Eastern mounded site or tel. The students learn how to excavate, record, and interpret artifacts; with this practical background knowledge, they then visit the Haas and Schwartz Megiddo Gallery of the Oriental Institute Museum, where they can see actual artifacts and understand the way that they were scientifically recovered through stratigraphic excavation. There is a tremendous excitement and benefit to learning how scientists actually work, and in understanding how we know what we know about the past. The Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center makes a major — and unique — contribution to educational museum programming in the Chicago area, and is a lot of fun.

— Gil J. Stein

IN MEMORIAM MYRTLE NIMS

1907-2008

by Robert Biggs

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS that we announce the passing of Myrtle Nims, widow of Oriental Institute professor and former Epigraphic Survey Director Charles F. Nims. Mrs. Nims died in her Hyde Park home June 17, 2008, after a brief period of failing health.

During the many years that Charles participated in the Oriental Institute's Epigraphic Survey in Luxor, Egypt, as an epigrapher, photographer, and eventually as field director, Mrs. Nims accompanied him, first in the 1930s after their marriage in 1931. When work was able to resume in the 1940s after World War II, Myrtle was a constant presence at Chicago House through Charles' retirement in 1972.



Charles and Myrtle Nims at Chicago House,
Christmas day, 1971. Photo taken by Robert Biggs

Mrs. Nims was an active participant in the work at Chicago House, responsible for binding books for the library for many years; when Charles became field director, she managed the household, including shopping, planning menus, arranging teas for Chicago House visitors, and became an integral part of the running of the Chicago House facilities and maintaining Chicago House's position as an attraction for dignitaries, visitors, and scholars. Oriental Institute members who visited Chicago House during those years will remember her as a gracious hostess and kind ambassador for the Oriental Institute's work in Egypt.

Included in her legacy to the Oriental Institute are the many hundreds of photographs Charles took in Egypt, as well as his book collection on Egypt and the Near East. Myrtle was the last of the Oriental Institute family who participated in the Institute's work in the Near East in the 1930s.

THE KIPPER FAMILY ARCHAEOLOGY DISCOVERY CENTER

Gil Stein, Oriental Institute Director, and Geoff Emberling, Oriental Institute Museum Director

We are excited to announce the official opening of the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center at the Oriental Institute. This simulated archaeological excavation located in the LaSalle Banks Room will enrich visits to the Museum galleries and Institute for thousands of students, teachers, and other participants by giving them a chance to experience the joys and challenges of being on an archaeological excavation. In the Kipper Center, visitors use real tools to excavate trenches based on Oriental Institute excavations at Megiddo. They find reproductions of artifacts, including cuneiform tablets, oil lamps, jewelry, pottery sherds, human and animal figurines, and much more. They are encouraged to think like scientists as they record and analyze their findings. After learning these processes, the groups take docent-led tours to discover how artifacts excavated by the Oriental Institute have gone “from ground to gallery,” bringing the ancient world to life.

Giving school age children this opportunity for hands-on excavation is fundamental to the mission and to the future of the Oriental Institute. It will give visitors a more direct experience with archaeological discovery, not only significantly enhancing what they learn, but also giving them a stronger personal connection with archaeology and with the ancient Near East. Since most of our school visitors are sixth graders, and since it seems most professional archaeologists and historians first developed their interest in the field at about that age, we are personally convinced that the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center will be an important part of our efforts to develop the next generation of supporters and members of the public interested in our work.

As you will find in the pages that follow, the Kipper Center builds upon the acclaimed work of the Rosenbaum ARTiFACT Center at the Spertus Museum in Chicago, Illinois. Realizing how central the study of archaeology can be to school curricula, Spertus staff invited the Oriental Institute to purchase the resources of the ARTiFACT Center, which relate so well to the scope of the Oriental Institute’s collection and the excavations that have brought that collection to light.

The installation of the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center has been possible thanks to the encouragement of Morrie Fred, the advice of Susan Marcus, the extremely generous support of David and Barbara Kipper, as well as Oriental Institute Visiting Committee member Lois Schwarz, the ingenious design and fabrication work of Erik Lindahl, the creative development of a dig and tour program by Carole Krucoff and her team of museum educators, and the help of Steve Camp throughout the process.

David Kipper and Barbara Levy Kipper

The Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center would not be possible without the generous support of David and Barbara Levy Kipper. The Kippers first became involved with the project in its original incarnation as the ARTiFACT Center located at the Spertus Museum. The appeal was multi-faceted – Mrs. Kipper is a former chair of the Spertus Board of Trustees and Dr. Kipper is himself an educator as well as a clinical psychologist. The idea of teaching children about the history of Israel through archaeology was particularly attractive to them both.

With the relocation of the Spertus Museum to its current facility came the news that the ARTiFACT Center would not reopen in the new space. Morrie Fred, Senior Lecturer in the Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences at the University of Chicago, and former Director of the Spertus Museum, first approached the Kippers about supporting the exhibit’s move to the Oriental Institute. “I couldn’t think of any better fit,” says Dr. Kipper, whose association with the University of Chicago includes past appointments as an adjunct faculty member and Senior Research Associate in the School of Social Service Administration. Currently, he teaches in the Department of Psychology at Roosevelt University, Chicago. In demonstrating the work of the Oriental Institute to young people, he believes that the Archaeology Discovery Center will foster a lifelong interest in archaeology. He also sees it as an important expansion of the Institute’s teaching mission. “This is where education begins.”



THE KIPPER FAMILY ARCHAEOLOGY DISCOVERY CENTER

THE FORMATIVE YEARS: LINKS WITH THE PAST

*Morrie Fred, Senior Lecturer, Master of Arts Program
in the Social Sciences, University of Chicago*

Archaeology allows present generations opportunities to link up with past ones; the creation of the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center is no exception. In March 1989, after a year and a half in the planning, the Rosenbaum ARTiFACT Center (AFC) at the Spertus Museum opened; headlines in the major Chicago media announced its arrival. Over the next eighteen years, the ARTiFACT Center at the Spertus Institute for Jewish Studies was to be busy daily with school groups from throughout the Chicagoland area; students were treated to a digging experience on an archaeological tel where they could touch the past as they learned about life in ancient Israel.

As is true for most projects of this scope (the Center took up several thousand square feet in the lower level of the former Spertus building), the success of this project depended on the contributions of many individuals. This project was particularly unique due to the integration of design, academic, and cultural institution's goals, and each of these categories saw the input of major players in Chicago's academic and cultural community. The original designer of the exhibit was Suzanne Cohan-Lange, who was then the Chair of Columbia College's Interdisciplinary Arts Department. Ms. Cohan-Lange was one of two individuals who developed the Expressways Children Museum, the precursor to the Chicago Children's Museum, and so seemed an excellent choice to design the new Spertus hands-on gallery.

As then-Director of the Spertus Museum, I hired Susan Bass Marcus, who over the next two decades would head the AFC and propel it to great heights. She and Ms. Cohan-Lange worked with others on the Spertus staff to design the exhibit and develop its programming. To do so, they engaged a faculty member of the Oriental Institute, Prof. Douglas Esse, an archaeologist, a professor, and a foremost authority on the Early Bronze Age Levant.

Doug began as a student of archaeology at the University of Chicago and worked at the sites of Tel Dan, Tel Qiri, and Ashkelon in Israel in the 1970s and '80s. After earning his PhD from the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Doug was appointed Assistant Professor of Syro-Palestinian Archaeology at the Oriental Institute. In 1989 he launched the Oriental Institute expedition to Tel Yaqush in the Jordan valley, where for three seasons he and his students investigated Early Bronze Age lifeways. Before his death in 1992, Doug was able to research the Oriental Institute excavation records of Megiddo compiled by James Henry Breasted, reconstructing the ancient Canaanite city prospering well into the Iron Age. Doug was a virtuoso in seeing how bits

and pieces fit together to provide fresh insights, making him an invaluable resource for creating a youth-education tool that balanced the academic scholarship of the institution with the adventure and excitement of active excavation. His knowledge of ancient Israel became embedded into this learning tool, and can be seen even today in the Oriental Institute's Hass and Schwartz Megiddo Gallery and the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center.

When the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies was planning its move to a new building (inaugurated in fall 2008), their decision not to rebuild the AFC in the new museum provided an opportunity for the Oriental Institute to accomplish one of the transformative goals of Director Gil Stein and Museum Director Geoff Emberling, both of whom had visited the AFC and experienced its potential for multidimensional teaching of archaeology, history, and scientific thinking.

PEDAGOGICAL FUNCTIONS

While the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center will serve the youth of greater Chicagoland through a hands-on excavation experience, the tel and accompanying programming will also serve as a laboratory and experiential learning tool for museum educators of tomorrow; student researchers will use the center to test how one teaches archaeology and science to the next generation of archeologists. The Anthropology of Museums seminar at the University of Chicago, now in its twelfth year, and co-taught with Professor Ray Fogelson, always included a visit to the Spertus ARTiFACT Center; there, graduate and undergraduate students engaged in a three-hour seminar, not only experiencing the full range of activities on the tel and the surrounding learning booths, but discussing and examining educational theory and practice with facilitator Susan Marcus.

Both Susan Marcus, and I have been privileged to serve in an advisory capacity with the Oriental Institute's Kipper Family Center. This center provides the possibility for multifaceted learning that can take place when one adds a hands-on dimension to traditional museum exhibits and collections. The addition of the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center at the Oriental Institute will provide prospects for not only outreach to schools and families throughout the Chicago area, but also on-site research by graduate students at the University interested in testing pedagogical techniques and studying learning processes. This will also give opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students at the University to gain experience as docents for the many school groups expected to arrive once the Kipper Center officially opens in November 2008.

A special thank you to Dr. Larry Stager and Susan Marcus for sharing their memories of Doug Esse with us.

THE KIPPER FAMILY ARCHAEOLOGY DISCOVERY CENTER

BUILDING A TEL

Erik Lindahl, Museum Preparator

In the summer of 2007, Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein approached me with the idea of constructing an artificial archaeological site — a tel — that would be the centerpiece of the new Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center.

The first obstacle we noted was the lack of space at the Oriental Institute for an installation of substantial size. We needed not only space for educational programming to take place with a variety of group sizes, but also a place to store materials and necessary components of this learning center. We determined that there was space in our lower-level multipurpose room, the LaSalle Banks Room, recognizing, however, the limitations due to the shared nature of that space. The Archeology Discovery Center would share its space and schedule with the rest of the Oriental Institute, not an easy feat for a room used for meeting space, teaching space, social space, and storage space. We knew the learning center had to be constructed in such a way that it could be set up and broken down for each use, thus minimizing its impact on the space when not in use. We had to construct a large hill that could essentially disappear.

After some Institute-wide discussion and a lot of creative thinking, the project

moved forward with the proposal to build a collapsible tel. Based on a design modeled after the ability of stadium bleachers to collapse onto themselves in settings such as school gymnasiums, the tel would be pulled away from the wall before use and pushed back when the experience of the day had come to an end. It would be a steel structure with a fiberglass shell, the surface recreating the look and feel of dirt without the mess. Within the four-layer structure would be sand pits holding replica artifacts that would lend themselves to learning about the ancient Near East.

To build the tel, we first constructed frames of the sections from square steel tubing, leaving the future archaeological mound looking like a bed frame or piece of modern sculpture (fig. 1). Because of the size of the Prep Shop doors, as well as the Oriental Institute stairwells and elevators, the whole steel frame structure had to be cut in half to fit out the door, then welded back together in place in the LaSalle Banks Room.

The next step was to cover the whole structure in a wire mesh followed by a layer of fiberglass. We recognized that this step in this process was not only messy, but toxic to the construction team and possibly the walls and floor of the room itself. The floor of LaSalle was covered in plywood and the fiberglass laid over the mesh, creating a solid, supportive

base for the final top layers. After three weeks of covering the structure with the mesh and fiberglass layers, it was clear that the project had begun to really come together (fig. 2).

But how to turn this climbing structure into a true educational tool? The construction team mixed a concoction of sand, gravel and epoxy, and thickeners, creating what would become a pebbly, solid, and supportive surface on which students could climb. The color and surface style were chosen through collaboration with the Museum Education Office as well as archaeologists at the Oriental Institute to determine what mix of materials would give the most true-to-life archaeological experience for students, while maintaining a surface that would be safe to climb on. A special thank you to the construction team for their willingness to don so many pairs of gloves to safely apply the noxious earthen-paste surface to the fiberglass shell.

The next day it looked great. With a few adjustments to ensure the safety of our junior archaeologists and some bolting together of the final pieces, the Museum Education team eagerly filled its “excavation units” with sand and the replica artifacts for the Oriental Institute Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center’s pilot programs.



Figure 1. Tel substructure in LaSalle Banks multipurpose room, collapsed for storage, before addition of fiberglass layers. Photo by Erik Lindahl



Figure 2. Tel expanded to its full size. The fiberglass layers have been added but not the final surface coat. Photo by Erik Lindahl

THE KIPPER FAMILY ARCHAEOLOGY DISCOVERY CENTER

DEVELOPING AN EDUCATION PROGRAM

Carole Krucoff, Head of Public and Museum Education

In order to bring the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center to life as a rich educational opportunity distinctive to the Oriental Institute, the Museum Education department consulted with Susan Bass Marcus, Educator Emerita at the Spertus Museum and former curator of the ARTiFACT Center. Our goal was to reshape and expand the Spertus program in ways that illuminate the collections, excavations, and research mission of the Oriental Institute. Constructing our own simulated excavation program, modeling it as a “tel” in ancient Israel to connect with the Museum’s exhibit on Oriental Institute excavations at Megiddo, and then developing the educational programming for our tel, was a year-long process that involved a whole team of Institute and Museum staff and docents. Aiding the team was a corps of student interns from the University of Chicago’s Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences (MAPSS), who were introduced to us by Morris Fred, MAPSS Program Instructor and former Director of the Spertus Museum. Graduate student interns with an interest in the project who came from other universities also joined us.

During our development phase, Gil Stein, Oriental Institute Director, and Geoff Emberling, Museum Director, served as advisors on historical content and archaeological processes. Susan Marcus provided invaluable advice on the shaping of the tel’s educational program as a whole. Wendy Ennes, Teacher Services and e-Learning Coordinator, joined by MAPSS intern Lauren Vander Pluym and intern Katie Pawlicki from the University of Oklahoma, created the content and innovative “comic book” design of a pre-visit guide that teachers can use to prepare students for their dig experience. This colorful, easy-to-read

layout engages students in learning about the academic and scientific processes of archaeological excavation in an accessible and fun format. The comic book features images of Oriental Institute excavations (including Gil Stein and Geoff Emberling out in the field) and features the processes of finding a dig site, the tools of excavation, and conservation and cataloging.

Wendy and Jessica Caracci, Museum Education Programs Assistant, developed educational materials for use during the dig experience, including a Field Notebook for students to record their finds and Trench Cards with artifact images and information that students use to do research about their discoveries. These items are based on Oriental Institute resources used in current excavations. Drs. Stein and

Emberling were an invaluable resource as they guided us in the creation of true-to-life recording methods that our archaeologists use in the field today.

Jessica assumed overall responsibility for keeping us on schedule and supervising the interns involved in the project. Along with Lauren and Katie, these included Anneliese Bruegel from Albion College in Michigan, and Anna Cohen and Julie Shackelford from the MAPSS program. Anneliese, who was with us for the fall quarter, focused on establishing the time periods and overall themes for our tel. Anna, assisted by Julie, completed the research process and then determined, obtained, and sometimes even created artifact reproductions for the tel’s trenches. Eudora Struble, University of Chicago PhD candidate in Syro-Palestinian Archaeology, supported



THE KIPPER FAMILY ARCHAEOLOGY DISCOVERY CENTER

the interns in their research. Among the artifacts that can be excavated by students are a 560 BC cuneiform tablet replica based on an item in the Oriental Institute collection, a Hellenistic oil lamp replica based on an item on display in the Haas and Schwartz Megiddo Gallery, and a variety of jewelry, pot sherds, and animal figurine replicas.

Volunteer Coordinators Catherine Dueñas and Terry Friedman advised on all aspects of the tel's development but focused their attention on the museum tour portion of the program. They were joined by docents Joe Diamond, Larry Lissack, and Roy Miller. Together, they worked on new guided tour approaches to help students integrate and expand upon the themes and artifacts encountered during the dig. These tours keep students engaged in the museum

environment by connecting the dig experience and excavated replica artifacts to those on view in the galleries and the process researchers and archaeologists went through to discover them. Docents highlight the stratigraphy case in the Haas and Schwartz Megiddo Gallery to connect the concept of stratigraphy in excavation to looking at artifacts and cultural change over time. These tours are designed to encourage discovery and dialogue as students recognize artifacts in the galleries that are similar to those they've discovered in their simulated excavation.

To test the effectiveness of our efforts, we ended the development phase by piloting the program with teachers and students. We invited three sixth-grade classes to join us, each from a school representative of the diverse populations

that visit the Oriental Institute Museum. These schools included:

- Ray Elementary School, where most of the student body lives in Hyde Park and many of the students' families are connected to the University of Chicago
- Fiske Elementary School, where most of the student body lives in Woodlawn, an underserved African-American community just south of the University of Chicago
- Wilson Elementary, a private school from the suburbs of St. Louis, Missouri, one of the many out-of-state schools that visit us annually.

Each sixth-grade class experienced the entire dig and tour program, which was led by our interns and docents. When asked to evaluate the educational impact of the program, all the teachers ranked it as excellent, and students responded enthusiastically.

Full operation of the Kipper Center is set to begin in fall 2008 with an emphasis on serving teachers and students in metropolitan-area schools. As the program continues we envision the Kipper Center becoming a springboard for a wide variety of programs and services that will serve families, youth, educators, and special-needs audiences throughout Chicago and beyond.



Students from Fiske Elementary School excavate trenches in the new simulated tel during a pilot program for the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center. Docent Roy Miller (standing) observes, while intern Katie Pawlicki (upper left) helps students analyze their finds. Photo by Wendy Ennes



Two Fiske students carefully uncover an artifact during their pilot program in the new Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center. Photo by Wendy Ennes

FAMILY EVENT

Mummies' Night!

A Super Science Adventure for Families

Wednesday, October 22, 2008

6:00–8:00 PM

Oriental Institute Museum

FREE

We can't keep this event under wraps! Join us as we unravel the mysteries of mummies using the secrets of science! Visit our galleries to discover ancient Egyptian mummies from thousands of years ago, and test your knowledge with our own laboratory mummy.

Then see *Mummies Made in Egypt*, an animated and live-action children's film from the award-winning Reading Rainbow series, and use computer interactives to discover how CT scans reveal what mummies look like without ever having to open their coffins! Join archaeologists to search for mummies and bones of ancient animals and learn how examining them can tell you much about life in ancient Egypt. Hands-on activities and a "Guess the Gummy Mummies" contest add to the excitement during this special evening of fun and learning for the whole family.

Recommended for children ages 5 and up accompanied by an adult. Free; pre-registration not required.

Funding for this event provided by Science Chicago: Life's A Lab.



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SPECIAL FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

Robbing the Cradle of Civilization:
The Looting of Iraq's Ancient Treasures

Katharyn Hanson

Sunday, October 19

2:00 PM

Breasted Hall

FREE

Join Katharyn Hanson, University of Chicago graduate student in Mesopotamian Archaeology and co-curator of the Oriental Institute Special Exhibit Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq's Past, for a screening and discussion of *Robbing the Cradle of Civilization*, an acclaimed 2004 documentary produced by Robert Bengner for the Canadian Broadcasting Company. Part detective story, part archaeological tragedy, and grim reminder of the spoils of war, the film is followed by a discussion session with Hanson, who will be available to answer questions in the Catastrophe! exhibit.

Free; pre-registration not required.

CUISINE AND COOKERY OF THE NEAR EAST

Turkish Delights at Turquoise Café

Thursday, November 6

7:00 PM

2147 W. Roscoe Street

Chicago, IL 60618

The Oriental Institute continues its unique series of dining experiences focusing on the cuisine and cookery of the Near East. Join us to expand your culinary knowledge and recipe repertoire at Turquoise Café, where master chef Michael Guler serves you a sumptuous array of traditional dishes from his Turkish homeland. Savor a full-course meal that includes Turquoise's signature appetizers, a selection of elegant entrees, and a sampling of desserts and beverages, all highlighting the Anatolian and Mediterranean influences that have combined over the centuries to make Turkish cookery one of the world's greatest cuisines. Guler explains the preparation and history of each dish and provides a copy of one of his favorite recipes for you to take home.

PROGRAM FEE: \$44 for Oriental Institute members, \$49 for non-members, which includes tax, gratuity, and recipes. Wines, raki, and cocktails available but not included. Pre-registration is required. Co-sponsored by the Graham School of General Studies.

Thursday, November 6, 2008, 7:00 PM. Meet at Turquoise Café, 2147 W. Roscoe Street, Chicago, IL 60618. Street parking available.

SPECIAL LECTURE

Iraq: Must Cultural Heritage Be a Casualty of War?

Micah Garen

Wednesday, November 19

7:00 PM

Breasted Hall

Micah Garen, professional photographer specializing in documenting the looting of archaeological sites, is the author of *American Hostage: The Story of a Journalist Kidnapped in Iraq and the Remarkable Battle to Win His Freedom*, which is based on his own experiences. In this lecture, Garen discusses the looting of archaeological sites in Iraq, shares clips from the documentary film he is producing, and speaks about his kidnapping and detention by Iraqi insurgents.

Free; pre-registration is not required.

This program is supported in part by the Norman Wait Harris Fund.

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE/ SMART MUSEUM OF ART LUNCHTIME LECTURE

Idols Without Anxiety

Seth Richardson

Friday, October 17

12:00 NOON

Smart Museum of Art

5550 S. Greenwood Avenue

Chicago, IL 60637



In ancient Mesopotamia, representations of the gods — and other beings — were rooted not in abstract belief or principal but in the concrete acts of ritual performance. Survey the formal procedures of Mesopotamian icon-building and caretaking and examine the role of divine images in diplomacy and warfare during this lunch-hour lecture by Seth Richardson, Assistant Professor of Ancient Near Eastern History. Presented in collaboration with the Smart Museum of Art, this lecture is free, but space is limited and pre-registration is required.

Box lunches available on request at the time of registration; \$8 per lunch for Oriental Institute and Smart Museum members, \$10 for non-members. To register, call Kristy Peterson at the Smart Museum, at (773) 702-2351.

Early Dynastic worshiper statuette from Tell Asmar, Iraq. OIM A12332. 2900–2600 BC

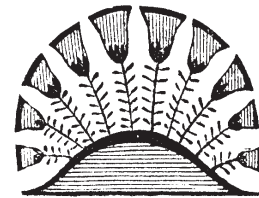
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BABYLONIAN BREWS

A James Henry Breasted Society Event

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

6:00 PM

By the dawn of history, the ancient Sumerians had already perfected the art of brewing beer. Come join us at the Oriental Institute to learn about how the ancients made and enjoyed their beverages! Kathleen Mineck, PhD candidate and contributor to the Chicago Hittite Dictionary, presents a lecture on the archaeological and textual evidence for ancient Sumerian beer brewing with a demonstration on the brewing process. We will sample several types of brew just as the Sumerians and Babylonians did thousands of years ago in our homage to the ancient version of Oktoberfest here at the Oriental Institute.

This event is open to members of the James Henry Breasted Society and their guests. For inquiries and to RSVP, please contact Kaye Oberhausen, Special Events Coordinator, by telephone at (773) 702-5044, or by e-mail at oberhausen@uchicago.edu

For more information about the James Henry Breasted Society or membership at the Oriental Institute, contact Sarah Sapperstein, Membership Coordinator, by telephone at (773) 834-9777, or by e-mail at oi-membership@uchicago.edu

Impression of an Early Dynastic stone cylinder seal from Khafajah, Iraq. The scene shows a man and woman seated drinking through tubes from pot on stand; scorpion in field. OIM A11464



ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

The following courses are co-sponsored by the Graham School of General Studies. Each course offers Teacher Recertification CPDUs from the Illinois State Board of Education. For more information, call Museum Education at (773) 702-9507.

ON-CAMPUS COURSES

STOLEN HISTORY: THE LOOTING OF IRAQ'S PAST

Katharyn Hanson

Saturdays, October 11–November 15

10:00 AM–12:00 NOON

Oriental Institute

In April 2003, the world was shocked by reports of the looted Iraq National Museum in Baghdad. Since then, the ongoing looting of Iraq's archaeological sites has been sporadically reported in the mainstream media. Yet the true story of Iraq's lost cultural heritage is rarely discussed. Why are archaeological sites and museums looted? What is the relationship between such looting and the illicit antiquities trade? What can be done to stop the plundering? This course examines these questions in conjunction with the Oriental Institute Museum's Special Exhibit *Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq's Past*. Discussion also includes more general issues involved in the protection of cultural heritage worldwide, both during war and in peacetime.

Several class sessions focus on relevant artifacts from the Oriental Institute Museum's world-renowned collection on ancient Iraq, as well as visits to the *Catastrophe!* exhibit.

INSTRUCTOR: Katharyn Hanson is a graduate student in Mesopotamian Archaeology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. She is also co-curator of the exhibit *Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq's Past*.

CPDUs: 12

REQUIRED TEXT:

The instructor will provide a packet of reading materials at the first course session.

This class meets at the Oriental Institute from 10:00 AM to 12:00 NOON on Saturday mornings beginning October 11 and continuing through November 15. Pre-registration is required.

WHEN EAST FIRST MET WEST: GREEK AND ROMAN EXPLORATION OF THE ORIENT

Ilya Yakubovich

Wednesdays, October 15–December 10;
No class on November 26

7:00–9:00 PM

Oriental Institute

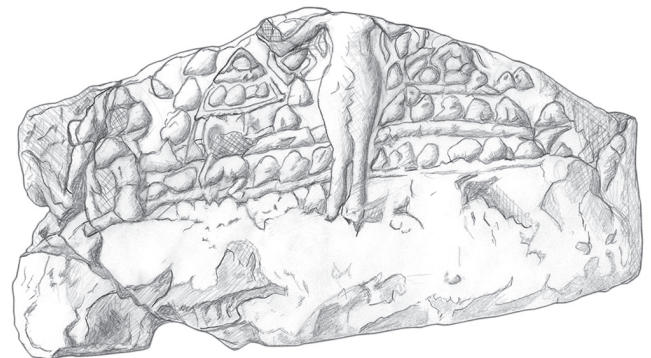
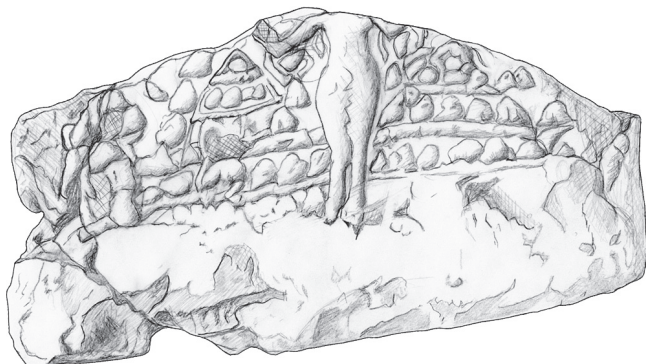
Long before the ancient Orient became a source of inspiration for Goethe and Voltaire, the ancient Greeks and Romans were intrigued by the peoples of the Near East. In this class we travel in the footsteps of ancient Greek and Roman explorers to discover how their experiences in the East were reflected in Western literature, history, and geography for centuries to come. Discussion ranges from how these encounters influenced such classic works as the Homeric epics and Herodotus' *History* to the ways geographic ideas of the time shaped views of the Near and Far East from the era of Alexander the Great to the Middle Ages. Selected class sessions include visits to the Oriental Institute Museum galleries to see art and artifacts from the cultures that were in contact with the ancient Greeks and Romans.

INSTRUCTOR: Ilya Yakubovich received his PhD in Near Eastern Studies and Linguistics from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago in 2008. He has a special interest in linguistic and cultural contacts in the ancient Near East.

CPDUs: 16

REQUIRED TEXT: To be announced

This class meets at the Oriental Institute from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Wednesday evenings beginning October 8 and continuing through December 3. Pre-registration is required. There will be no class on November 26.



PRINT TEST: Fragment of a baked clay "votive bed" decorated with an image of a woman in a papyrus marsh. These small altar-like platforms related to the goddess Hathor may have been a part of a household cult that celebrated the birth of a child. MH.29.234. From Medinet Habu, Twenty-second through Twenty-fourth Dynasties, ca. 945–715 BC. From *Baked Clay Figurines and Votive Beds from Medinet Habu*, by Emily Teeter. OIP 133, in press. Drawing by Angela Altenhofen (Left: Oriental Institute Publications Office; Right: Nimrod Systems)



CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

HIEROGLYPHS BY MAIL

Andrew Baumann & Mary Szabady

October 20, 2008–February 23, 2009

Registration Deadline: October 10

Taught by correspondence, this course introduces students to an in-depth study of Middle Egyptian, the “classical” language of ancient Egypt. Learn the fundamental structure and grammar of the language by completing the first eight lessons and exercises of *Middle Egyptian Grammar* by James Hoch. Mail or fax completed lessons to the instructors, who will correct them, answer any questions, and return the lessons by mail or fax. Those who complete all course assignments will receive a certificate of course completion from the Oriental Institute.

INSTRUCTORS: Andrew Baumann holds a PhD in Egyptology from the University of Chicago. He has been an epigrapher and artist for the Oriental Institute’s Epigraphic Survey based at Chicago House in Luxor, Egypt. He is currently Publications Manager for the University of Chicago Press. Baumann is assisted by Mary Szabady, a graduate student in Egyptology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Hoch, James. *Middle Egyptian Grammar* and *Middle Egyptian Sign List*. Mississauga: Benben Publications, 1998.

As a special service to students who register for this course, both books can be obtained by sending a postal money order or personal check for \$60 (USD), which includes shipping costs, to:

Managing Editor
Benben Publications/SSEA Publications
1483 Carmen Drive
Mississauga, Ontario
Canada L5G 3Z2

Payment by check will take 2-3 days longer to process.

Both books are also available by check, cash, or credit card at a 10% discount from the Suq, the Oriental Institute gift and book shop.

The course begins on Monday, October 22, and continues for sixteen weeks, with a two-week break during the winter holidays. Registration deadline is October 10. Pre-registration is required.

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE/ CHICAGO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL STAGED PLAY READING

The Epic of Gilgamesh

Silk Road Theater Project

Saturday, October 11

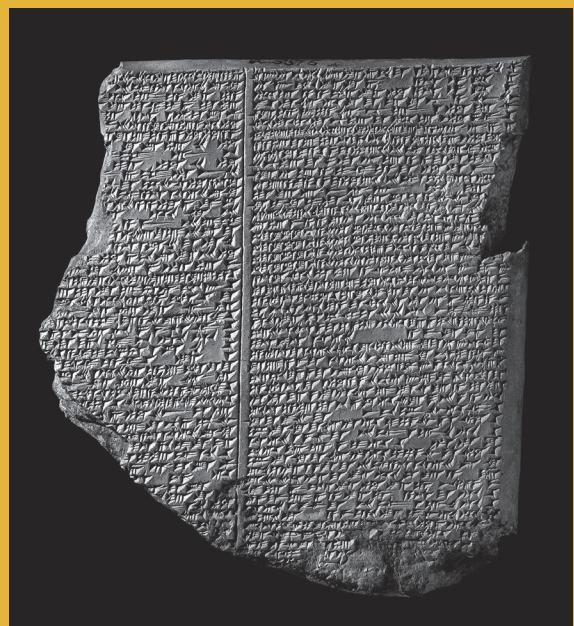
1:15–1:45 PM Museum Gallery Walks Led by
Silk Road Theater Project

2:00–3:30 PM The Epic of Gilgamesh performance
in Breasted Hall

Post-play Discussion with
Yusef Komunyakaa and Chad Garcia

Experience the Epic of Gilgamesh re-imagined as a powerful verse-play by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and Princeton professor Yusef Komunyakaa in collaboration with dramaturge Chad Garcia. Chicago’s acclaimed Silk Road Theater Project brings this renowned ancient Mesopotamian epic to life on the stage in Breasted Hall as part of a major University of Chicago collaboration with the Chicago Humanities Festival. Following the performance, Komunyakaa and Garcia invite the audience to join them in a discussion of the play.

Admission: \$15 in advance and for Oriental Institute members; \$20 non-members at the door. Free for teachers and students. For tickets and more information, call the Chicago Humanities Festival at (312) 494-9509 or visit www.chfestival.org



The Flood Tablet, relating part of the Epic of Gilgamesh, Neo-Assyrian, 7th c. BC.
From Nineveh, northern Iraq. © Trustees of the British Museum



SUQ ANNUAL HOLIDAY SALE

December 2–6, 2008

Books • Games • Jewelry • Unique Gifts

Tuesday–Saturday 10 AM–6 PM
Wednesday 10 AM–8:30 PM
Sunday 12–6 PM

Everything Is On Sale!

20% off to Oriental Institute Members





MUSEUM EDUCATION REGISTRATION FORM

Please enroll me in the following museum education program(s):

	MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS	TOTAL
<input type="checkbox"/> When East First Met West: Greek and Roman Exploration of the Orient	_____ \$240	_____ \$290	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Stolen History: The Looting of Iraq's Past	_____ \$175	_____ \$225	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hieroglyphs by Mail	_____ \$255	_____ \$295	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkish Delights at Turquoise Café	_____ \$44	_____ \$49	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Idols Without Anxiety			

Free, but pre-registration required. To register, call Kristy Peterson at the Smart Museum, (773) 702-2351.

Box lunches on request at time of registration: \$8 per lunch for Oriental Institute and Smart Museum members; \$10 for non-members.

The Epic of Gilgamesh

\$15 in advance and for Oriental Institute Members; \$20 non-members at the door. Free for teachers and students.

For tickets and for more information, call the Chicago Humanities Festival at (312) 494-9509, or visit www.chfestival.org

Handel in Miniature

Admission prices vary (see p. 22). For tickets and for more information, call the Newberry Library at (312) 255-3700, or visit www.newberry.org/consort

GRAND TOTAL _____

*I would like to become a member of the Oriental Institute. Enclosed is \$50 for an Annual Membership; \$40 for seniors, UC/UCH Faculty & Staff, and National Associates (persons living more than 100 miles from Chicago within the USA). **Please send a separate check for membership.***

I prefer to pay by Check (payable to the Oriental Institute) Money order MasterCard Visa

Account number: _____ Exp. date: _____ 3-digit security code: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Daytime phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Cut out and send form to: The Oriental Institute Education Office, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, IL 60637

REGISTRATION AND REFUND POLICY

For multi-session on-campus courses, a full refund will be granted to anyone who notifies us about his/her cancellation before the first class meeting. Those who cancel after the first class meeting, but before the second class meeting, will receive a full refund minus a \$50 cancellation fee. After the second class meeting, no refunds will be granted unless the course is canceled by the Education Office. Failure to attend a class does not entitle a registrant to a refund. Some courses require a small materials fee to be paid at the first class meeting.

For single-session programs, no refunds will be granted, but if the Museum Education Office is notified of cancellation at least 48 hours before the program begins, a credit voucher will be issued for the full amount. With less than 48 hours notice, a voucher for the full amount, less a \$5 cancellation fee, will be issued. Credit vouchers can be used for any Oriental Institute single-session program for one full calendar year from the date on the voucher. Only those registered for classes may attend them. The Museum Education Office reserves the right to refuse to retain any student in any class at any time.

“ THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE IN THE NEWS ”

A selection of recent coverage of the Oriental Institute in Chicago and national media sources

PRINT MEDIA

Chicago Jewish News

July 13–19, 2007

“Controversy Alive and Well: A Chicago Professor Is at the Center of a Dispute About Who Really Wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls,” by Pauline Dubkin Yearwood — Normal Golb’s research on the Dead Sea Scrolls

Journal Star

August 19, 2007

“Wander Off the Beaten Path to Find Mummies,” by Mike Ramsey. <http://www-news.uchicago.edu/citations/07/070819.stein.emberling...> (This story also appeared in other journals.)

University of Chicago Magazine

November–December 2007

“The World As We Knew It.” — Feature on the Special Exhibit European Cartographers and the Ottoman World, 1500–1750: Maps from the Collection of O. J. Sopranos

University of Chicago Humanities Annual Report 2007

“Evidence of Early Urban Development Unearthed in Syria” (Clemens Reichel at Hamoukar); and “[Martha] Roth Appointed Humanities Dean”

Tableau

Winter 2008

“Of Ancient Empires and Modern Litigation,” by Daniel Parisi — Matthew Stolper and the Persepolis Fortification Archive Project

Time Out Chicago

January 3–9, 2008

“The Artifacts of Life,” by Madeline Nusser — Interview with Donny George

Hyde Park Herald

February 27, 2008

“Guts!” — Coverage of Mummies’ Night Family Event

University of Chicago Chronicle

April 3, 2008

“American University in Beirut Appoints Dorman President”

New York Times

July 1, 2008

“Uncovering Evidence of a Workaday World Along the Nile,” by John Noble Wilford — Nadine Moeller’s work at Tell Edfu

COVERAGE OF THE EXHIBIT CATASTROPHE! THE LOOTING AND DESTRUCTION OF IRAQ’S PAST

University of Chicago Chronicle

April 3, 2008

“OI Marks 5-year-old ‘Catastrophe’ at Baghdad Museum,” by William Harms

Art Daily

April 4, 2008

“Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago to Examine the Looting of the Iraq Museum”

Hyde Park Herald

April 9, 2008

“The Oriental Institute Spotlights Iraq’s Art,” by Georgia Geis

Los Angeles Times

April 9, 2008

“Missing Iraqi Antiquities Haunt Experts”

Associated Press

April 9, 2008

“Exhibit Details Destruction of Iraq’s Cultural Heritage”

Bloomberg News

April 9, 2008

“War Planners Must Learn from Iraq Looting, Book Says”

Chicago Tribune

April 11, 2008

“Artistic Casualties of the Iraq War,” by William Mullen

Ann Arbor Review

April 13, 2008

“May Re-energizes Chicago with Festival, Parade, Rides, Exhibits,” by Randy Mink

Christian Science Monitor

May 20, 2008

“Iraq’s Antiquities Garner International Attention,” by Howard LeFranchi

New City Chicago

May 27, 2008

“Eye Exam: Holding on to the Past,” by Ben Boroeren — <http://www.newcity.com/chicago/7792.html>

Chicago Life

May 2008

“Longitude and Latitudes of Civilization,” by Sigalit Zetouni

Hyde Park Herald

June 18, 2008

“Desserts and Deserts at the Oriental Institute” — teaser on front page and photo of François Gaudard giving a tour of the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery

Bloomberg News

June 23, 2008

“Jordan Returns 2,466 Artifacts Looted From Iraq National Museum,” by Massoud A. Derhally — reference to the Oriental Institute special exhibit

Archaeology Magazine

July/August 2008

“From the Trenches: Late Breaking News and Notes... Seized Artifacts Back in Iraq” — box featuring the special exhibit

The New York Review of Books

August 14, 2008

“The Devastation of Iraq’s Past,” by Hugh Eakin — reference to the catalog of the Catastrophe! exhibit

RADIO

NPR, “Worldview”

April 9, 2008

“Iraq: Does International Law Matter After All?” — Interview with McGuire Gibson and Patty Gerstenblith

WTTW, “Chicago Tonight”

April 17, 2008

Interview with Geoff Emberling about the Catastrophe! exhibit

WBBM AM, “At Issue”

June 22, 2008

Interview with Katharyn Hanson

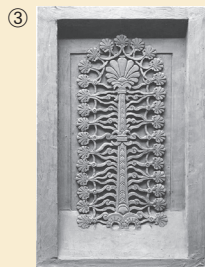
SOME DECORATIVE MOTIFS of the ORIENTAL INSTITUTE BUILDING

by
Emily
Teeter
&
Leslie
Schramer

Many of us walk through the Oriental Institute on a daily basis without giving much thought to the riot of decoration that surrounds us. Almost every surface – from the doorknobs to the terminals on the main staircase balustrades – is ornamented with Middle Eastern motifs. Where did all this decoration come from?

According to correspondence in the Oriental Institute Archive, James Henry Breasted, H. O. Murray (the building's architect), Ulrich Ellerhusen (a New York sculptor), and a "Symbolism Committee" in Chicago collaborated on the design. Although Breasted was responsible for sending suggestions drawn from ancient sources to the architect and sculptor, he was aided by the Symbolism Committee, one of whose members was John S. Shapley, Head of the Art Department at the University

of Chicago. Many of Breasted's suggestions were turned into "plasterlene" models by Ellerhusen before being sculpted in stone. Breasted relied upon a fairly small number source books for inspiration. The majority of the motifs were taken from *Assyrian Sculptures: Palace of Sinacherib* (1915), by Archibald Paterson; *Die Kunst des alten Orients* (1925), by Heinrich Schäfer and Walter Andrae; and *Atlas de l'Histoire de l'Art Égyptien...* (1868–78), by Emile Prisse-d'Avennes.

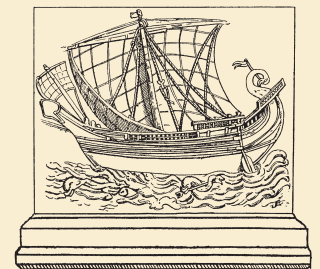
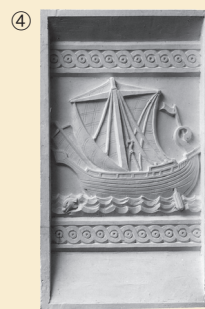


Hatti: Striding King

Copied from the "King's Gate" at the Hittite capital Hattusha, Turkey; 13th c. BC

Assyria: Stylized Tree

A motif popular in Assyrian art; 9th c. BC



Israel: Menorah

Breasted had initially suggested using a scene of a "prostrate envoy ... of King Jehu" from the Shalmaneser Obelisk in the British Museum. Tactfully, Dr. Shapley of the Symbolism Committee suggested the substitution of the menorah that appears on the Arch of Titus in Rome; 1st c. AD

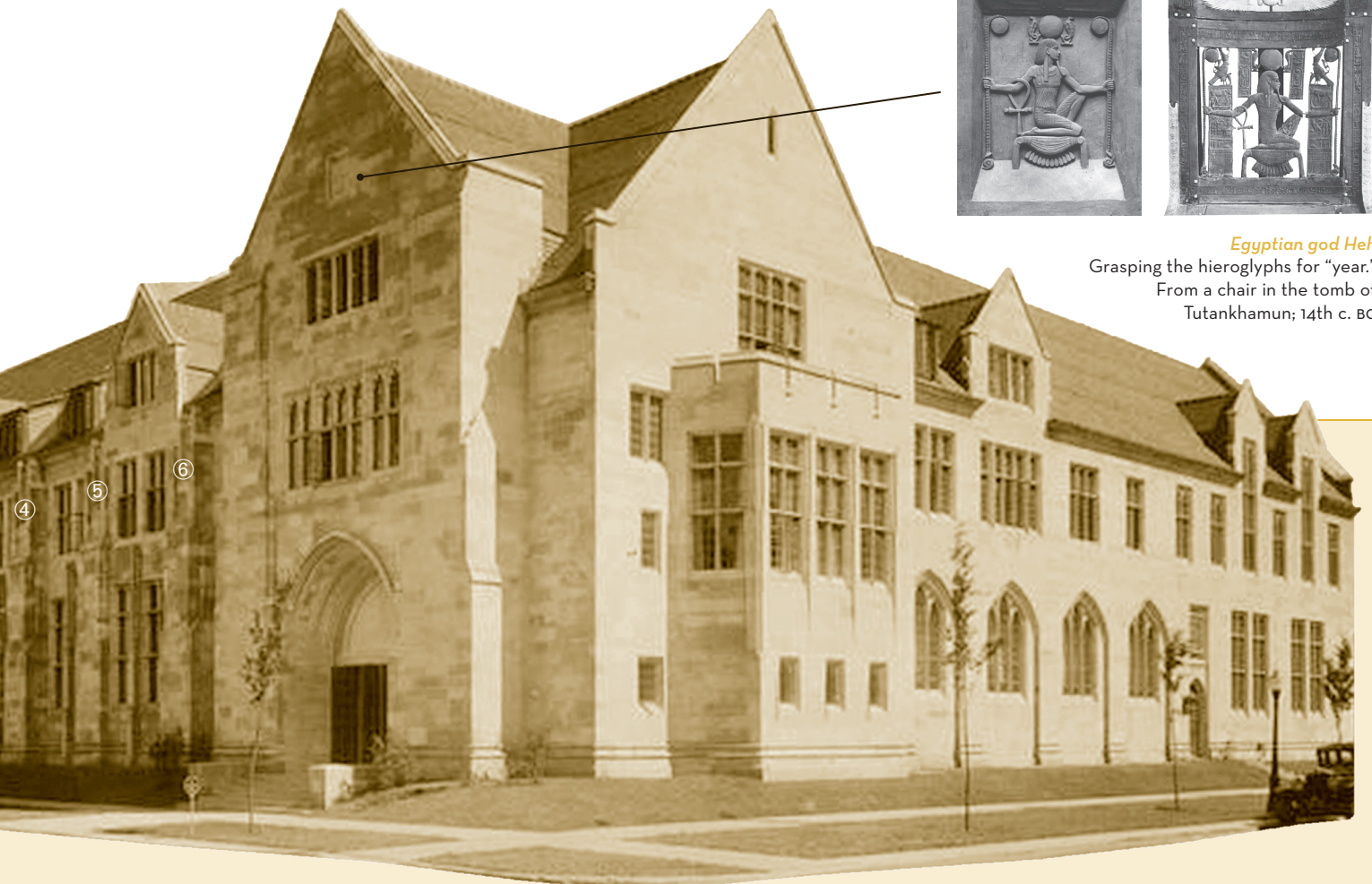
Phoenicia: Ship

Detail from a sarcophagus from Sidon, Lebanon; 6th c. BC

EXTERIOR DECORATION

Most of the exterior decoration of the building is restricted to the north facade, apparently to “preserve... [Rockefeller Chapel’s] dominant position on the quadrangles.”¹ Along the buttresses just below the roofline (currently obscured by ivy) are panels that symbolize the six great cultures of the ancient Near East: Assyria, Babylonia, Egypt, Hatti, Israel, and Phoenicia.

¹ J. H. Breasted, *The Oriental Institute*. Chicago, 1933, p. 108.



Egyptian god Heh
Grasping the hieroglyphs for “year.”
From a chair in the tomb of
Tutankhamun; 14th c. BC



Babylonia: Anzu

Silver vase of Entemena with the lion-headed eagle Anzu; from Tello (ancient Girsu), southern Iraq; ca. 2400 BC



Egypt: Nile Gods

Papyrus and lotus entwined around the hieroglyph for “unification.” From a representation on the side of a statue of Senwosret I from Tanis, Egypt; 20th c. BC



Each of the double doors at the entry has four different floral patterns distributed among sixteen bosses

THE FRONT DOORS

The original plan for the front doors was far more complex than the final version. In one proposal, referred to in a letter from Breasted to Murray (May 17, 1930), the doors were to be covered with forty bronze “shields” that depicted a riot of themes. Breasted suggested using “Oriental figures in balanced arrangement [at each corner], facing each other...” The remaining “shields” would be patterned after motifs such as a lamp from the tomb of Tutankhamun, Egyptian faience bowls, Thutmose IV as a sphinx crushing his enemies, a bowl-shaped boat (*kufa*), a raging lion, and a hovering vulture. He envisioned the left door having Assyrian themes and the right Egyptian. At one point, Breasted inquired whether it would be possible to cast the doors entirely in bronze. That plan was discarded and the feasibility of having the shields cast in bronze and attached to wood doors was discussed. Ultimately, the doors were made entirely of wood with carved shields. Each door leaf is an incredible artistic achievement. Make sure to examine them closely the next time you enter or exit the building.



Stone threshold imitating carpet. Palace of Sargon II, Khorsabad; 8th c. BC. OIM A17598. This object is on display in the Museum's Yelda Khorsabad Court

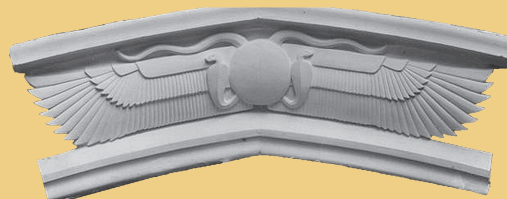


Patterns from the double doors at the entry of the Oriental Institute

ARCHWAY BOSSES

in the arch above the tympanum

EAST



Egyptian winged disk

in imitation of those found above doors of Egyptian temples. Design taken from the sarcophagus of King Aye; 14th c. BC

WEST



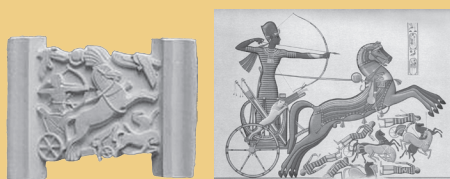
King Seti I

Depicted presenting food offerings to Osiris. After a wall relief from a chapel at Abydos; 13th c. BC



Palms and Assyrian soldiers

From a wall relief at the Southwest Palace of Sennacherib at Nineveh; 7th c. BC



Ramesses II battles the Hittites

From the Second Pylon of the Ramesseum at Luxor; 13th c. BC



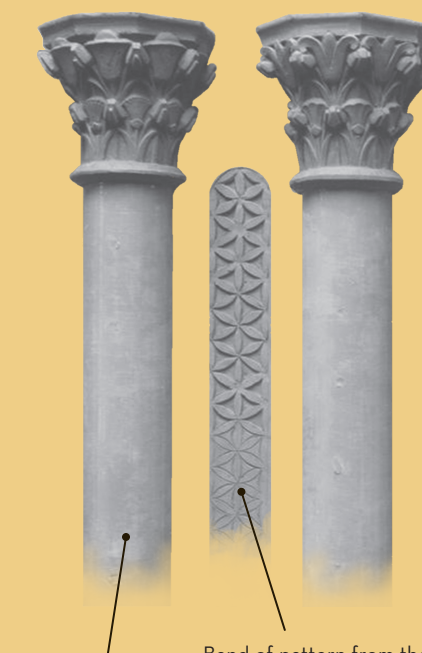
Phoenician ships fleeing the Assyrian fleet

From a wall relief in the Southwest Palace of Sennacherib at Nineveh; 7th c. BC



Sphinx presenting Maat

The original is a 7th-c. BC relief of either King Psamtek or King Apries from Karnak



A pair of slender papyrus and lotus columns

Band of pattern from the threshold of the throne room of Ashurbanipal at Nineveh; 7th c. BC



God Heka as a Sphinx

The relief appeared on a Late Period block at Esna; 5th-4th c. BC

THE TYMPANUM

The most famous element of the building's decoration is the tympanum, entitled "East Teaching the West."

The East, depicted as an Egyptian scribe ①, gestures to the West, represented by a young man draped in a cloak ② that, according to Ellerhusen, "avoids indicating any particular period or nation." The West holds a plaque, apparently a gift from the East, inscribed in hieroglyphs reading: "we behold your goodness." The allegorical composition refers to the debt of the West to the East and their shared cultural background, further symbolized by the sun's rays that shine upon them equally. This sense of the roots of Western civilization being in the East was one of Breasted's most important messages.

In the scene, East and West are balanced with people and things that are emblematic of their respective cultures: architectural accomplishments ③, great men (radiating outward in chronological order), and archetypical animals.



In this early version of the tympanum (P. 20357), East and West are reversed. In a letter to architect O. H. Murray (May 14, 1930), Breasted requested that the palm tree be replaced by the sun with rays and that the generic lion be replaced by a lion from Soleb. The great leaders of the West in this version included Constantine (above the bison's head), and of the East, Narmer, Akhenaten, and Nefertiti, none of whom appear in the final design. Ellerhusen's suggestion to include Mohammed in this tableau was also not realized. The original architectural achievements of the West are buildings on the University of Chicago campus. Archival Photofiles, apf2-05502, Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

EAST

ARCHITECTURAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Persepolis, the Sphinx, the pyramids at Giza, and a column from the temple of Sahure (shown behind the scribe)

WEST

ARCHITECTURAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Parthenon, Notre Dame, and the Nebraska state capitol in Lincoln, designed by Mayers, Murray, and Phillip

GREAT MEN

GREAT MEN



LION

Modeled after the red granite lion from the Temple of Soleb, Nubia, now in the British Museum



BISON

A bison was chosen as the emblematic animal of the Western world. Although there is a European bison, the wisent, bison are most often associated with the American West. Its presence on the tympanum may subtly express early twentieth-century optimism about America's role as a cultural leader

THE LOBBY



Ceiling cornices As you enter the lobby of the Oriental Institute, look up. Two patterns of hybrid Egypto-Assyrian floral friezes decorate the ceiling

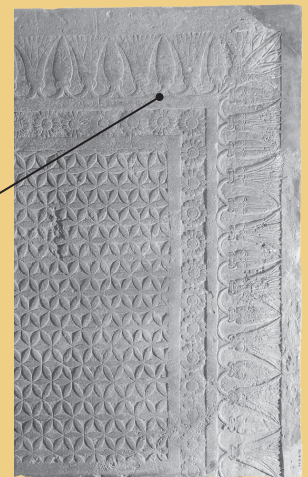


The only clearly Islamic decoration in the building appears on the doorknobs and key plates of doors. Most of the hardware in the building has been changed over the years, but several examples have survived, like this set on a utility closet off the entrance to Breasted Hall



© Trustees of the British Museum

Stairway balustrade Fearsome, roaring lions guard the stairway to the upper floors of the Oriental Institute. They are modeled after the pair of carved female lions that once flanked the entrance to a small temple to Ishtar near the palace of Ashurnasirpal II at Nimrud, northern Iraq; 9th c. BC



© Trustees of the British Museum



The bronze gates leading to what is now the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery Archival Photofiles, apf2-05444, Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library



Dart and Lotus

From the "fringe" of Neo-Assyrian carved thresholds; for example, this one from the doorway to the throne room of Ashurbanipal of Nineveh, northern Iraq; 7th c. BC



Cone and Foliate

An Assyrian pattern that occurs in several places, including the throne room of Sargon II at Khorsabad, northern Iraq; 8th c. BC



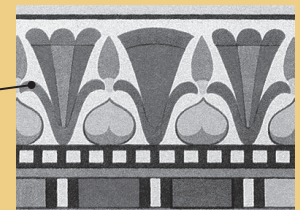
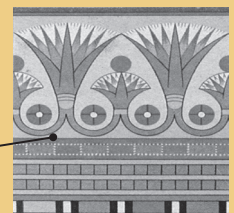
Lotus and Circle

From a painting in an unidentified Theban tomb recorded by Prisse d'Avannes, vol. 1, pl. 13

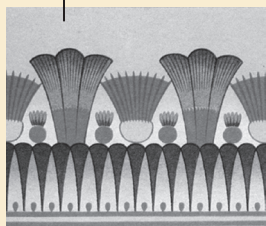
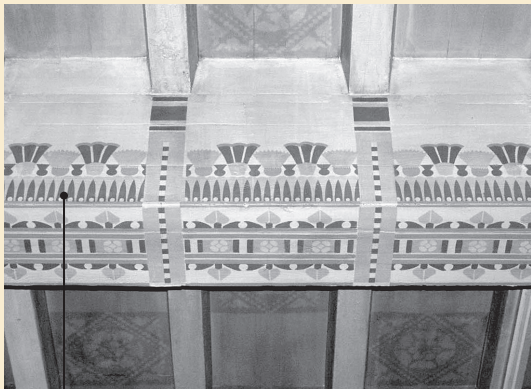


Cone and Flower

From a painting in an unidentified Theban tomb recorded by Prisse d'Avannes, vol. 1, pl. 54



THE GALLERIES



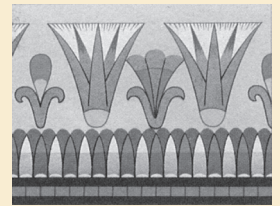
Globe lights
Inspired by pottery
from Cyprus



Ceiling beams in the Robert F. Picken Family Nubia Gallery and the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery
Stenciled motifs on the beams are from an unknown Theban tomb, published in *Prisse d'Avennes*, vol. 1, pl. 54



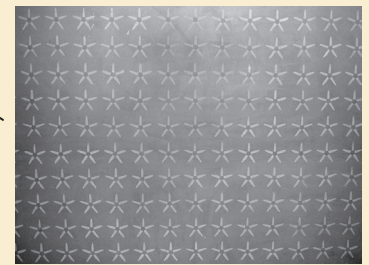
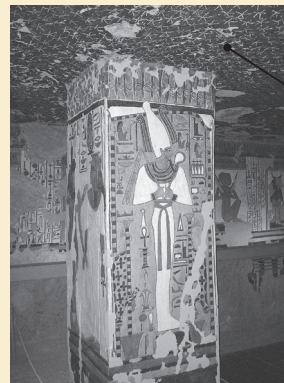
Ceiling beams in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery and the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery



The motif on the sides of the beams is from an unknown Theban tomb, published in *Prisse d'Avennes*, vol. 1, pl. 13

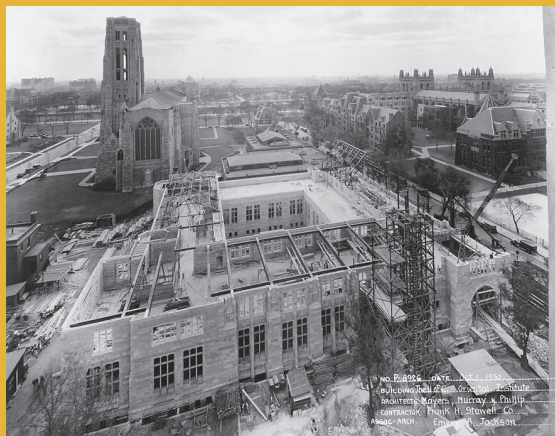


The undersides of the beams are also modeled after decoration in an unknown Theban tomb in *Prisse d'Avennes*, vol. 1, pl. 13



Ceiling of the "Star Chamber"
The design is copied from patterns that occur on the ceilings of Egyptian temples and tombs

The preliminary plans for the Oriental Institute building were drafted by University of Chicago's consulting architect E. B. Jackson. The final plans were done by H. O. Murray of Goodhue Associates (by 1930 known as Mayers, Murray, and Phillip), in New York. Ground was broken in April 1930 and the building was occupied a year later, although the dedication was deferred to December 5, 1931.



Archival Photofiles, apf2-05415, Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library



On the left is a plasterlene model for an element used on each side of the Research Archives' rose window – the only figurative decoration on the south exterior side of the Oriental Institute. It is a copy of a Neo-Hittite double-sphinx capital base excavated in the 1930s by a German team at Zincirli, Turkey. Examples of the original capital bases are now housed in the Museum of the Ancient Orient in Istanbul and the Vorderasiatisches Museum in Berlin; they date to the 8th c. BC

We hope that this virtual tour inspires you to look more closely at the beautiful decoration that surrounds you. Perhaps you can identify some of the other motifs and find their inspiration in the Museum galleries.

SUNDAY FILMS

Each Sunday afternoon, enjoy the best in documentary or feature films on the ancient Near East at the Oriental Institute. Films begin at 2:00 PM and are free. Unless otherwise noted, running times range from thirty to fifty minutes. Following the films, museum docents will be available in the galleries to answer questions about our exhibits.

October 5 *Pioneer to the Past: The Life and Times of James Henry Breasted (2004)*

From WTTW's *Chicago Stories* series, this film presents Chicago-area native James Henry Breasted, founder of the Oriental Institute, who arrived at the University of Chicago in the 1890s as the first American professor of Egyptology. Breasted's scholarly vision, entrepreneurial flair, and unbending determination helped him shape the Oriental Institute into a great academic institution that is still guided by his principles.

October 12 *Persepolis Revisited (2004)*

Discover the history and grandeur of Persepolis, a magnificent capitol of the great ancient Persian Empire, which grew to be as vast as the future Roman Empire. This production by Iranian filmmaker Farzin Rezaeian features spectacular reconstructions of the great palaces at Persepolis and explains their function in connection with the Persian New Year festival of Naw Rouz, which Iranian communities worldwide still celebrate at the spring equinox.

October 19 *Robbing the Cradle of Civilization. See p. 8*

October 26 *The Mummy (1932)*

Get ready for Halloween the old-fashioned way with this genre-defining horror movie classic from 1932. Starring the legendary Boris Karlov, this is the film that ignited moviegoers' passion for shifting desert sands, mysteries from the past, and the archaeologist as adventure hero. Karlov plays a mummy who is brought to life when British archaeologists raid the tomb of an ancient Egyptian prince. B/W, 73 minutes.

In November we feature the acclaimed PBS series *In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great* (1997), which retraces the 20,000 mile trek of Alexander as he conquered the world from Greece to India. By age 30, Alexander had carved out an empire whose impact on world culture can still be felt 2,000 years after his death.

November 2 *Episode 1: Son of God*

November 9 *Episode 2: Lord of Asia*

November 16 *Episode 3: Across the Hindu Kush*

November 23 *Episode 4: To the Ends of the Earth*

November 30 *The Pyramids and Cities of the Pharaohs (1995)*

The land of the pharaohs rises from the sand in this extraordinary film by Egyptologists, historians, and artists who worked together to create spectacular video images of ancient Egyptian temples, tombs, and pyramids, in all their original splendor. 70 minutes.

December 7 *Children of the Sun (2001)*

The total solar eclipse that took place in Iran in 1999 inspired Mansooreh Saboori, an Iranian filmmaker then living in Chicago, to return home and explore the meaning of the sun in both contemporary and ancient Iranian culture. The documentary she produced contains extraordinary views of modern and ancient sites as well as fascinating commentary by University of Chicago scholars, including several from the Oriental Institute.

December 14 *Mysteries of the Holy Land (1994)*

From the award-winning *Archaeology* series produced by the Archaeological Institute of America, this film, hosted by John Rhys-Davies, investigates some of the best-kept secrets of Old Testament times.

December 21 and December 28 — *Breasted Hall closed for the holidays. Sunday film showings begin again on January 11, 2009.*

The 2008 Epigraphic Survey Bulletin will be published in the Winter 2009 issue of *News & Notes*. For more information on the Epigraphic Survey at Chicago House in Luxor, Egypt, visit

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/projects/epi/>

FALL 2008 CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, all programs take place at the Oriental Institute. All programs subject to change.

OCTOBER

5 | SUNDAY

Pioneer to the Past: The Life and Times of James Henry Breasted

Film
2:00 PM
See page 20 for details

11 | SATURDAY

The Epic of Gilgamesh

Special Performance Event
2:00 PM
See page 11 for details

Stolen History: The Looting of Iraq's Past

Adult Education Course
October 11–November 15
10:00 AM– 12:00 NOON
See page 10 for details

12 | SUNDAY

Persepolis Revisited

Film
2:00 PM
See page 20 for details

15 | WEDNESDAY

When East First Met West: Greek and Roman Exploration of the Orient

Adult Education Course
Wednesdays, October 15–December 10
7:00–9:00 PM
See page 10 for details

17 | FRIDAY

Idols Without Anxiety

Lunchtime Lecture
Smart Museum of Art
12:00 NOON
See page 9 for details

18 | SATURDAY

Handel in Miniature

Newberry Consort Concert Event
7:00 PM Lecture
8:00 PM Concert
See page 22 for details

19 | SUNDAY

Robbing the Cradle of Civilization: The Looting of Iraq's Ancient Treasures

Special Film Screening and Discussion
2:00 PM
Free
See page 8 for details

20 | MONDAY

Hieroglyphs by Mail

Correspondence Course
October 20–February 22
See page 11 for details

22 | WEDNESDAY

Mummies' Night

Family Event
6:00–8:00 PM
See page 8 for details

26 | SUNDAY

The Mummy

Film
2:00 PM
See page 20 for details

29 | WEDNESDAY

Babylonian Brews

James Henry Breasted Society Event
6:00 PM
See page 9 for details

NOVEMBER

2 | SUNDAY

In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great: Son of God

Film
2:00 PM
See page 20 for details

5 | WEDNESDAY

A Tale of Two Towns: Settlement Archaeology at Giza

Members' Lecture
7:00 PM
See page 23 for details

6 | THURSDAY

Turkish Delights at Turquoise Café

Cuisine and Cookery of the Near East
Turquoise Café
7:00 PM
See page 8 for details

9 | SUNDAY

In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great: Lord of Asia

Film
2:00 PM
See page 20 for details

16 | SUNDAY

In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great: Across the Hindu Kush

Film
2:00 PM
See page 20 for details

19 | WEDNESDAY

Iraq: Must Cultural Heritage Be a Casualty of War?

Special Lecture
7:00 PM
Free; Pre-registration not required
See page 8 for details

FALL 2008 CALENDAR

23 | SUNDAY

In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great: To the Ends of the Earth

Film
2:00 PM
See page 20 for details

30 | SUNDAY

The Pyramids and Cities of the Pharaohs

Film
2:00 PM
See page 20 for details

DECEMBER

2 | TUESDAY

Suq Sale

December 2–10
See page 12 for details

3 | WEDNESDAY

Visits to Babylon, Ur, and Other Sites

Members' Lecture
7:00 PM
See page 23 for details

7 | SUNDAY

Children of the Sun

Film
2:00 PM
See page 20 for details

14 | SUNDAY

Mysteries of the Holy Land

Film
2:00 PM
See page 20 for details

31 | WEDNESDAY

Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq's Past

Museum Special Exhibit Closing

NEWBERRY CONSORT CONCERT

Handel in Miniature

The Newberry Consort

Saturday, October 18

7:00 PM Pre-performance Lecture by Drew Minter

8:00 PM Concert

Yelda Khorsabad Court

The Oriental Institute and the Newberry Consort invite you to a special season of concerts amidst the treasures of the Oriental Institute Museum. The Yelda Khorsabad Court is the magnificent setting for these unique musical events, which begin on Saturday, October 18, with a concert featuring the work of George Frideric Handel.

A consummate showman, Handel was able to write music that was intellectually stimulating, easily accessible, and astonishingly beautiful, making him one of the few composers to remain consistently popular from his era of the early eighteenth century

to our own. Join the Newberry Consort for Handel in Miniature, featuring some of Handel's "greatest hits" performed by four of the finest presenters of early music. Experience the artistry of Dutch recorder virtuosa Marion Verbruggen, Baroque diva Ellen Hargis, harpsichord wizard David Schrader, and Consort Director and gambist David Douglass.

ADMISSION:

Section 1 (first 5 rows)

General Admission — \$40
Seniors/Library and Oriental Institute Members — \$36
Students — \$20

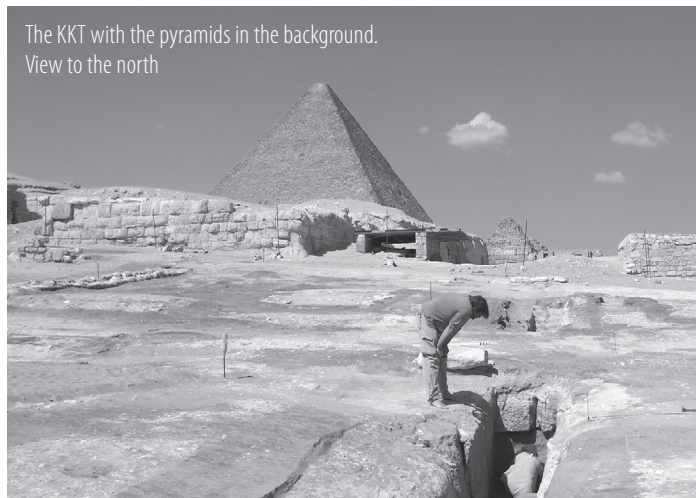
Section 2

General Admission — \$30
Seniors/Library and Oriental Institute Members — \$27
Students — \$14

Pre-performance lecture by Handel specialist and audience favorite Drew Minter. Pre-registration for lecture and concert required. Space is limited. For more information and to order tickets, call the Newberry Library at (312) 255-3700, or order online at www.newberry.org/consort

MEMBERS' LECTURE SERIES

The 2008–2009 Members' Lecture Series takes place the first Wednesday of every month, November through June, at 7:00 PM in Breasted Hall, Oriental Institute. These lectures are sponsored by Oriental Institute Membership, are free and open to the public, with receptions to follow.



The KKT with the pyramids in the background.
View to the north

A Tale of Two Towns: Settlement Archaeology at Giza

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

Mark Lehner, Research Society at the Harvard Semitic Museum,
Director of the Giza Plateau Mapping Project, and Visiting
Assistant Professor of Egyptian Archaeology at
the Oriental Institute

7:00 PM

Breasted Hall

Khentkawes Town (KKT) is the settlement attached to the monumental tomb of Queen Khentkawes, one of the great structures of the Giza plateau. The footprint of this L-shaped town has been one of the principal templates in the study of the history of urbanism, especially in ancient Egypt. The KKT lies just across from the *Heit el-Ghurob*, or Wall of the Crow, settlement at the main *wadi* at Giza — where the Giza Plateau Mapping Project has excavated for twenty years. Occupation in the two settlements should have overlapped at the end of the Fourth Dynasty. This lecture explores new findings about the KKT from three seasons of work (2005, 2007, and 2008), how this work sheds new light on the history of settlement at the foot of the Giza Pyramids Necropolis, and the social organization we might infer from these settlement patterns.

Visits to Babylon, Ur, and Other Sites: The Present State of Archaeology in Southern Iraq

Wednesday, December 3, 2008

John Curtis, Keeper, Department of the Middle East,
British Museum

7:00 PM

Breasted Hall

Since April 2003, the British Museum has been at the forefront of attempts to draw attention to damage being caused to Iraqi cultural heritage. This has involved visits to the Iraq National Museum in Baghdad, to Babylon, Ur, and most recently, a survey of other major archaeological sites in southern Iraq. The results of this survey have led to an extensive debate on the Web and in the media about whether looting is ongoing or whether there is now some improvement. In his lecture, Dr. Curtis discusses the political implications of commenting on Iraqi cultural heritage.



A helicopter flies over the ruins of Uruk

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, January 7, 2009

Death and the City: Recent Work at Tell Brak, Syria
Augusta McMahon, University of Cambridge

7:00 PM

Breasted Hall

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE TRAVEL PROGRAM PRESENTS

EGYPT AND THE EAST EGYPT'S EASTERN DESERT AND THE SINAI PENINSULA

Escorted by
Dr. Robert Ritner
of the Oriental Institute

with an
optional extension
to Aqaba & Petra, Jordan

Thursday, March 12 | Depart Chicago in the evening.

Friday, March 13 | *CAIRO, Mena House Oberoi Hotel* Upon arrival in Cairo, we transfer to the Mena House Oberoi Hotel, situated on the Giza plateau, and join Dr. Ritner for dinner.

Saturday, March 14 | *CAIRO: Mena House Oberoi Hotel* We have obtained special permission to tour Abu Rawash, the northernmost site of the Memphite Necropolis, as well as the Fifth Dynasty pyramid complexes at Abu Sir. We then proceed to Saqqara to visit the tomb of general and later pharaoh Horemheb and the new Imhotep Museum.

Sunday, March 15 | *CAIRO: Mena House Oberoi Hotel* The monuments of Old Cairo including the Coptic Church of Abu Sarga, the Ben Ezra Synagogue, and the Coptic Museum are the focus of this morning's touring. After lunch, we visit Beit el-Sennari, the restored house that was the first Egyptian home of Egyptology. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure and we enjoy dinner on our own in the city.

Monday, March 16 | *PORT SAID: Sonesta Port Said Hotel* This morning we travel into the Delta where we have obtained permission to visit Buto, a dual city known to the ancient Egyptians as Wadjet. After completing our visit, we continue to Port Said, where our hotel overlooks the Suez Canal.

Tuesday, March 17 | *PORT SAID: Sonesta Port Said Hotel* We ferry across the Suez Canal into northern Sinai and continue to Pelusium, the celebrated eastern Egyptian seaport, the gateway to Western Asia and the scene of numerous battles between the Egyptian army and Babylonian and Persian invaders. We visit the small museum in Qantara and return to Port Said.

Wednesday, March 18 | *ISMAILIYA: Mercure Forsan Island* Touring begins at Tanis, Zoan of the Bible, the capital of Egypt during the Twenty-first and Twenty-second Dynasties. Touring continues at Tell ed-Daba, the site of the Hyksos capital, Avraris, and Bubastis, home of the cat-goddess Bastet. Our day ends in Ismailiya in time to visit the Ismailiya Museum.

Thursday, March 19 | *ISMAILIYA: Mercure Forsan Island* This morning we drive to Sammanud, home of ancient Egyptian historian Manetho, to visit the site of the Temple of Onuris-Shu El. We then continue to Mansura to visit the house where Louis IX was held during the failed crusade of 1249. We have obtained special permission to visit several sites around Mansura, beginning at Tell el-Ruba, site of ancient Mendes and Thmuis. At Muqdam (ancient Taremu), we visit the Temple of Mahes, stela, and a statue dating to the Eighteenth Dynasty. Our final stop today is the Coptic Church of St. George, renowned for its annual *mulid* (festival), where specially trained priests perform exorcism.

Friday, March 20 | *RAS SUDR: Helnan Ras Sudr Hotel* We turn south along the Red Sea to the beautifully restored Monastery of St. Anthony, the first and largest Coptic desert monastery. Following a picnic lunch, we proceed to the nearby Monastery of St. Paul, site of the cave of the first Egyptian hermit. We return north, passing through the tunnel under the Suez Canal into the Sinai.

Saturday, March 21 | *RAS SUDR: Helnan Ras Sudr Hotel* We transfer to four-wheel-drive vehicles for a rough ride to Sarabit el-Khadim, the most important pharaonic site in Sinai and a meeting place between Egyptian expeditions and Canaanite tribesmen. Following a steep

trail, we visit numerous commemorative stela set up at a temple dedicated to the goddess Hathor as the "Mistress of Turquoise." As this is a difficult climb, it will be possible to remain at the hotel to enjoy a day at the beach.

Sunday, March 22 | *WADI EL-DEIR: Wadi el-Raha Hotel* Today we drive into the interior of the Sinai through vast landscapes of strange rock formations to stop at the churches in the oasis of Wadi Feiran, an ancient pilgrimage site, and spend the night at the foot of a mountain traditionally called "Mt. Moses."

Monday, March 23 | *HURGHADA: Sonesta Hurghada Hotel* The intrepid among us might wake up early and climb the 750 steps to the summit of Mt. Sinai. The view from the small chapel built here in 1934 is spectacular. The full morning will be spent visiting the fortified Monastery of St. Catherine. Erected by Emperor Justinian in 527 and spared from destruction by the Muslims, this monastery became the seat of the Greek Orthodox archbishopric in Egypt. The interior is a picturesque jumble of terraces, flower-filled courtyards, and vaulted galleries. After lunch, we continue across the Sinai to the Gulf of Aqaba, turning south to Sharm el-Sheikh and the evening ferry across the Red Sea to Hurghada.

Tuesday, March 24 | *HURGHADA: Sonesta Hurghada Hotel* Today we take a bumpy desert ride in four-wheel-drive vehicles to Mons Claudianus, the source of the columns exported for use in many state buildings in Rome. We see the ruined village that housed the Romans brought here to work the quarries.

Wednesday, March 25 | *HURGHADA: Sonesta Hurghada Hotel* Our last desert excursion is a visit to Mons Porphyrites, the quarries where imperial porphyry

was extracted for transport to Rome and Constantinople. Here we find the remains of a temple built by Trajan and Hadrian. Returning to Hurghada, there will be time for a swim in the Red Sea before our farewell banquet dinner.

Thursday, March 26 | *CAIRO: Intercontinental Semiramia* A morning flight returns us to Cairo. The remainder of the day will be at leisure.

Friday, March 27 | Transfer to the airport for our flight to Chicago.

COST OF TOUR: \$8,685 (includes internal Egypt Air flights only)
Single supplement: \$850

EGYPT AND THE EAST OPTIONAL JORDAN EXTENSION

Thursday, March 26 | *AQABA: Mövenpick Resort & Residence Hotel* A morning ferry returns us to Sharm el-Sheikh. We then drive to Nuweiba for the afternoon ferry to Aqaba.

Friday, March 27 | *AQABA: Mövenpick Resort & Residence Hotel* Our full day of touring in Aqaba highlights the Oriental Institute sites including the Islamic-period town of Ayla and the nearby Sherif Husein House, which displays finds from the site. We also visit Roman Aqaba, the Ottoman fort, Aqaba Museum, and, time permitting, Jezeret Pherone Island.

Saturday, March 28 | *PETRA: Crown Plaza Petra Hotel* This morning we drive north to Wadi Rum. Our tour includes the Allat temple, the remains of what may have been a palace or sacred bath, and some of the numerous petroglyphs and Nabataean, Thamudic, and Old South Arabic inscriptions. We arrive at Petra in the late afternoon.

Sunday, March 29 | *PETRA: Crown Plaza Petra Hotel* The full day is devoted to the exploration of this breathtakingly beautiful city carved out of rose-colored sandstone. During our two-day stay we will visit all the accessible monuments of the ancient city. There will be time free for those who wish to climb to some of the city's less accessible places.

Monday, March 30 | *AMMAN: Marriott Hotel* This morning we re-enter Petra and climb to the High Place of Sacrifice. Here we see altars and sacrificial pits cut into the rock, as well as the remains of buildings that probably housed priests. After lunch, we drive to Amman, stopping at Madaba to view a unique sixth-century mosaic map depicting Byzantine Jerusalem before the advent of Islam.

Tuesday, March 31 | *AMMAN: Marriott Hotel* Our day begins at the National Museum, which houses artifacts recovered from recent excavations. The hilltop ruins of the Temple of Hercules, a sixth-century Byzantine church, and an Umayyad palace complete the touring on the city's citadel. Just one hour north of Amman, on the banks of Wadi Jerash, are the glorious ruins of ancient Gerasa. We visit the Triumphal Arch of Hadrian, an immense colonnade, three theaters, various temples, as well as some of the fifteen churches built during the rule of Justinian. We return to Amman to rest before our early morning flight home.

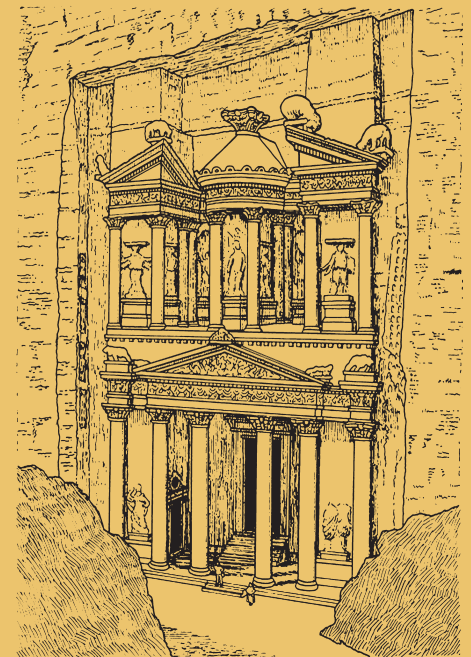
Wednesday, April 1 | Our flight to Chicago departs in the early morning.

COST OF JORDAN EXTENSION: \$2,935
Single supplement: \$345

Price is based on a minimum of ten tour participants

FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS,
CONTACT THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE
MEMBERSHIP OFFICE

Phone: (773) 834-9777
E-mail: oi-membership@uchicago.edu



The Treasury at Petra, Jordan

SAVE THE DATE

SPLENDORS OF THE NILE

**Escorted by Nadine Moeller,
Oriental Institute**

Departs November 15, 2009

Join us for this luxurious introduction to the sites and history of the land of the pharaohs, ideal for first-time Egypt travelers or those looking to see the major sites of Egypt with the insight of an archaeological scholar. Dr. Nadine Moeller, director of excavations at Tell Edfu, Egypt, leads the group through Cairo, Luxor (with a special look at the work of the Oriental Institute Epigraphic Survey and a visit to Chicago House), and a week-long cruise on the Nile; our chartered *dahabya*, or sailing river yacht, brings us to some of the most famous landmarks of Egyptian history as well affords us the opportunity for exclusive site visits and on-site learning. A special Thanksgiving dinner on board our yacht, a hot-air balloon ride over Luxor, and an exclusive day-long visit to the site of Tell Edfu are just a few of the things that will make this trip an unforgettable voyage along Egypt's lifeline — the Nile.

DOMESTIC TRAVEL

Bactrian Gold at the Golden Gate

a weekend at san francisco's
asian art museum
to see the special exhibit

AFGHANISTAN

Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul

november 14-16, 2008
escorted by dr. mark garrison

Join Oriental Institute Members and art, history, and archaeology enthusiasts on a weekend at San Francisco's acclaimed Asian Art Museum, escorted by Dr. Mark Garrison, Professor and Chair of the Department of Art and Art History at Trinity University, Texas. Dr. Garrison publishes and works with the Oriental Institute Persepolis Fortification Archive Project, and will introduce us to the history, culture, and archaeology of Afghanistan in an exclusive Saturday museum lecture.

AFGHANISTAN *Hidden Treasures From the National Museum, Kabul* offers the world a look at a selection of the most remarkable archaeological finds in all Central Asia – pieces that are not only artistically splendid but reveal a diverse and thriving ancient culture. The exhibit presents the history and significance of Afghanistan as a place of remarkable diversity. In addition to Bronze Age artifacts, the collections relate to one of the most dynamic periods in Afghanistan's history, from the third century BC to the first century AD – a period which covers the beginning of Silk Road trade.

ITINERARY

Following independent arrival in San Francisco on Friday afternoon, we gather at our hotel, the Hotel Whitcomb. Join your fellow travelers for a traditional Moroccan family welcome dinner at the renowned Marrakech Restaurant on Friday night.

On Saturday, we will enjoy a day at the Asian Art Museum, one of San Francisco's premier cultural attractions. The morning is free for you to explore the museum galleries on your own until we gather for a catered Asian lunch in the Museum's Peterson Lounge. Following lunch, Dr. Mark Garrison will present a lecture on the history, art, and archaeology of ancient Afghanistan and provide some insight into the artifacts in the special exhibit. We then enter the exhibit as a group. Saturday evening is at your leisure.

With so many things to see and do in San Francisco, take Sunday to visit other museums, the theatre district, Haight-Ashbury, Chinatown, or the world-famous Golden Gate Bridge.

Independent departure.

TRIP INCLUDES

- ✦ Two nights in the San Francisco Hotel Whitcomb, including Saturday and Sunday breakfasts
- ✦ Friday night all-inclusive dinner at the Marrakech Moroccan restaurant
- ✦ All-inclusive transportation to/from Friday's group dinner (we will be able to walk from the hotel to the Asian Art Museum on Saturday)
- ✦ Saturday Asian Art Museum admissions and exhibition entrance fees, as well as Dr. Garrison's lecture
- ✦ Saturday all-inclusive lunch at the Asian Art Museum

TOUR COST

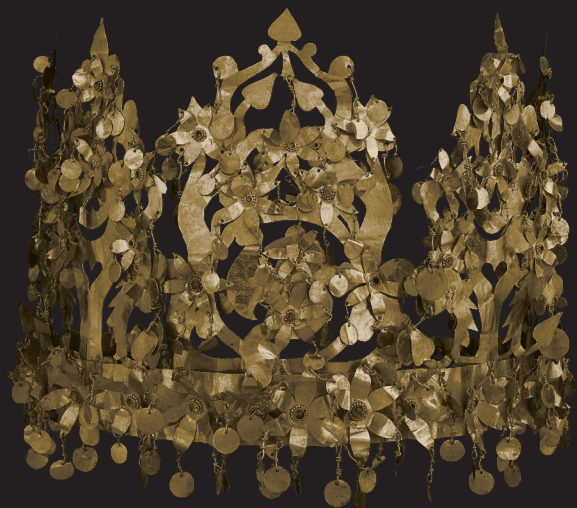
\$489 double occupancy | \$559 single

For more information or to register, contact Sarah Sapperstein, Oriental Institute Membership Coordinator

telephone – (773) 834-9777

e-mail – oi-membership@uchicago.edu

Register early; this trip will sell out!



© Thierry Ollivier / Musée Guimet

More at

<https://oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/member/travel.html>

A folding gold crown from one of the six graves of Bactrian nomads discovered at Tillya Tepe in northern Afghanistan in 1978. The crown, dating from the first century AD and wrought of solid gold, was collapsible for easy transport by the ancient nomads. This item will be on display as part of the exhibition *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul*, organized by the National Geographic Society and National Gallery of Art, in cooperation with the National Museum of Afghanistan, Kabul



THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

The **ORIENTAL INSTITUTE** of the University of Chicago is devoted to the study of the history, archaeology, languages and cultures of the ancient Middle East (Egypt, Sudan, Jordan, Israel, the Palestinian Territories, Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran).

The Institute was founded in 1919 by James Henry Breasted.

James Henry Breasted was the first American Egyptologist. His vision was to demonstrate that the roots of western civilization lay in the ancient Middle East, rather than in the Greco-Roman world. He was an accomplished scholar and a tireless advocate for the promotion, recognition and funding of excavations, dictionary projects, and large scale publication projects.



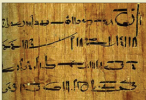
Faculty are among the field's most distinguished scholars.



Oriental Institute faculty (most of whom also hold an appointment in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures) train University of Chicago graduate and undergraduate students, many of whom go on to distinguished academic careers. The Oriental Institute has its own publications department which publishes works by faculty and staff.

The Oriental Institute is among the world's leaders in the study of ancient languages.

A hallmark of that effort is the completion of dictionaries of Assyrian (used in Mesopotamia), Hittite (used in Turkey) and demotic Egyptian. These dictionaries are essential research tools used by scholars throughout the world. They have become a symbol of the commitment to painstaking and thorough research at the Oriental Institute. The latest of the projects, the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary was instituted in 1952. After the publication of twenty volumes, it is just now nearing completion.



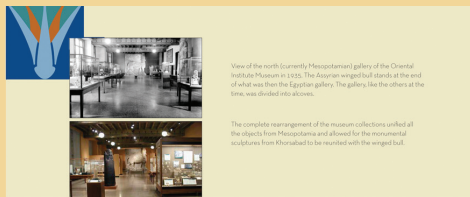
The Research Archive is the foremost library on the ancient Near East in the Western Hemisphere.



The Research Archive allows established scholars and students convenient access to more than 54,000 volumes, many of which are virtually unobtainable elsewhere and which are essential for research. The digital catalogue of the Research Archive contains over 150,000 references making it an unmatched research tool.

The Oriental Institute has sponsored excavations across the Middle East.

In the past excavated objects were divided between the host country and the excavators. In more recent years, if artifacts stay in the country of origin, The collections form an invaluable resource for the study of the history, culture and language of the ancient world.



View of the north (currently Mesopotamian) gallery of the Oriental Institute Museum in 1935. The Assyrian winged bull stands at the end of what was then the Egyptian gallery. The gallery, like the others at the time, was divided into alcoves.

The complete rearrangement of the museum collections unified all the objects from Mesopotamia and allowed for the monumental sculptures from Khorsabad to be reunited with the winged bull.

THE MUSEUM OF THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

The **Museum** is the repository for more than 170,000 objects from the ancient Middle East, most of them recovered in the course of the Institute's own excavations. The museum collection, founded in 1896, moved to the present building in 1931. The galleries are arranged geographically: Mesopotamia, Anatolia and Syria, Megiddo, Egypt, Persia, and Nubia. An additional gallery is devoted to temporary exhibits.

The museum has a variety of departments that record, protect and preserve the collections.



The Archives

The Archive is one of the most important resources of the Oriental Institute, housing 100,000 photographic images, excavation records, maps, and correspondence that document the history of the Oriental Institute, its work, and the artifacts in the museum's collection. The Archive is often frequently consulted by scholars throughout the world, and it provides images for a wide variety of purposes.



Conservation

Conservation is the profession dedicated to the preservation of artifacts. At the Oriental Institute, conservators examine, study and make recommendations for the proper care and storage of our collections. The first level of care involves monitoring the environment (humidity and light levels) in which the objects are stored and exhibited. When necessary conservators carry out treatments to stabilize deteriorating objects. An important component of their work is the analysis of ancient materials and the way they degrade over time.



Education and Public Programs

The Museum Education office offers a wide variety of programs for adults and children. Many of the activities take place in the galleries, led by docent volunteers and museum staff. Interpretational cards and computer kiosks are available for those who wish additional information. Visitors also give presentations about the ancient world at regional schools and clubs.



STAR CHAMBER POSTERS

As part of an effort to make ongoing Oriental Institute research more visible in the Museum, as well as providing more information about the overall mission, goals, and activities of the Oriental Institute, we have installed posters in the corridor between the Egyptian, Persian, and Nubian galleries, called the "Star Chamber" for the mural of stars on its ceiling.

On the west side of the corridor is a pair of posters (at left). One focuses on the foundation of the Oriental Institute and the overall range of its scholarly activities (teaching, linguistic research, excavations, and the Research Archives). The other introduces departments of the Museum (the galleries, Archives, Conservation, and Education and Public Programs).

On the opposite wall are four posters that feature specific projects of the Institute: CAMEL, the Epigraphic Survey, the Zincirli Expedition, and the Chicago Hittite Dictionary. The posters were written by each project's director. We anticipate that other projects will be featured in years to come.

The project was coordinated by Geoff Emberling and Emily Teeter, and the posters were designed by Hanau-Strain Associates of Chicago. Please make sure to take a look at them the next time you are in the galleries!

Romancing the Past
90th Jubilee

SAVE THE DATE
May 6, 2009

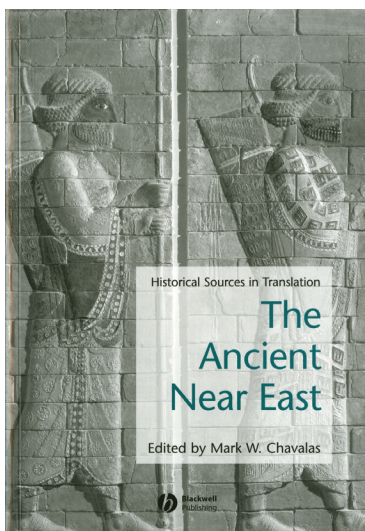
Please join us in celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Oriental Institute. The Romancing the Past Gala includes silent/live auction, seated dinner in the galleries, and a special presentation. For more information, please contact Kaye Oberhausen, Special Events Coordinator, at (773) 702-5044 or oberhausen@uchicago.edu

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

The University of Chicago
1155 East 58th Street • Chicago, Illinois • 60637
(773) 702-9514

THE SUQ CORNER

NEW AT THE SUQ



The Ancient Near East

Edited by Mark W. Chavalas

This book presents new translations of Mesopotamian and ancient Near Eastern historiographic texts, providing the reader with the primary sources for the history of the ancient Near East.

Members' Price: \$44.96

When Writing Met Art: From Symbol to Story

By Denise Schmandt-Besserat

Schmandt-Besserat's pioneering investigation of the interface between writing and art documents a key turning point in human history, when two of our most fundamental information media reciprocally multiplied their capacities to communicate. When writing met art, literate civilization was born.

Members' Price: \$40.50

